

REFERENCES AND REVIEWS

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used adjunctively had an advantage over either of the control substances or over psychotherapy alone in reducing anxiety and hostility. From the viewpoint of the therapist, variously assessed, anxiety was equally reduced in all groups, although verbalized hostility was increased in all active drug groups. Discontinuance of the drugs resulted in no adverse effects.

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RELIEF OF PAIN BY COOLING OF THE SKIN—M. Ellis. Brit. Med. J.—Vol. 1:250 (Jan. 28) 1961

Nine years' experience in the casualty department of the General Infirmary at Leeds with the ethyl chloride spray for the treatment of acute pain in many conditions is described. These painful conditions included lumbago, acute wryneck, fibrositis, renal colic, dysmenorrhea, and fractured rib. A theory is put forward to account for the many striking successes achieved and also for the failure in some cases. The technical points necessary for success are discussed. A new fluoromethane product, which is non-toxic and nonflammable and gives the same results as ethyl chloride, is described.

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ENDOCARDITIS COMPLICATING OPEN HEART SURGERY—J. W. Lord, A. M. Imparato, A. Hackel and E. F. Doyle. Circulation—Vol. 23 (April) 1961

Endocarditis occurred in 18 of 2,585 cases of open heart surgery. The predominant organism was *Staphylococcus*. Contaminated heart-lung machines, septic thrombophlebitis, and contaminated blood were causative in some. The higher incidence occurred where preoperative prophylactic antibiotics were given. All patients received prophylactic anti-

biotics postoperatively. Early diagnosis depends upon immediate, repeated, postoperative blood cultures. Therapy should be intensive and prolonged; it may require reoperation for removal of infected intracardiac sutures or prostheses. Two cases are reported to illustrate the problems encountered.

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CONGENITAL FIBROSIS OF LIVER AS A FAMILIAL DEFECT—W. P. Sweetnam and C. G. W. Sykes. Lancet—Vol. 1:374 (Feb. 18) 1961

Congenital fibrosis of the liver is probably the primary anomaly in cystic disease of the liver. It may be associated with cystic disease of the kidneys and the pancreas. The syndrome is described in three siblings. One presented in renal failure; necropsy showed hepatic fibrosis and congenital cystic kidneys. The other two presented with hematemesis. The diagnosis was confirmed by liver biopsy and percutaneous transsplenoportal venography. Both had portacaval anastomosis, and they remain well six and seven years later. One has cystic kidneys. Congenital hepatic fibrosis may be genetically determined and is probably dominant.

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NEW STANDARDS FOR ESTIMATING BONE DENSITY—W. Koch and D. Kaplan. Lancet—Vol. 1:377 (Feb. 18) 1961

The new standards are of bone contained in open-ended tubes of stainless steel (which is opaque to x-rays). The mineral content of the bone is estimated in grams of apatite per square centimeter of the shadow cast. The standards are photographed together with the living bone, the steel tubes indicating the correct position of the standards. The apatite content of the living bone is estimated by comparing it with the densities of the standards, the apatite content of which is known.



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